

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 01618 01 OF 02 201807Z

46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

RSC-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

PA-01 OIC-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-02 DODE-00

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P 201745Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6009

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01618

NESCO

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNESCO, US, VN

SUBJECT: VN APPEAL TO UNESCO RE CAO DAI HOLY SEE.

REF.: STATE 9693

1. LENGTHY DISCUSSION BETWEEN GVN AMBASSADOR TO UNESCO (DINH), US PERMREP JONES, AND DELOFF CHARACTERIZED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THAT GVN BEST ADVISED NOT TO PURSUE SUBJECT APPEAL FURTHER. INDEED, DINH SAID HE HAD CONTACTED BY LETTER, TINH, GVN MINISTER OF CULTURE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH (A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND) TO URGE THAT NO FURTHER ACTION BE UNDERTAKEN ON THIS ISSUE. DINH SAID HE WOULD NOW CONTACT MFA "OFFICIALLY" TO URGE SAME AND, INDEED, TO REGISTER HIS "FIRM" PERSONAL OPPOSITION TO COURSE OF ACTION THAT HE FELT COULD LEAD, IN DINH'S WORDS, TO A "CATASTROPHY" FOR GVN INTERESTS. DINH SAID HE CERTAIN THAT FOREIGN MINISTER VUONG VAN BAC WOULD AGREE WITH THIS CONCLUSION. BAC, DINH NOTED, DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT OF CAO DAI APPEAL WITH DINH IN RECENT VISIT TO PARIS. MOREOVER, MFA  
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PAGE 02 PARIS 01618 01 OF 02 201807Z

HAS NOT CONTACTED VIETNAMESE PERMDEL SINCE INITIAL

APPEAL LODGED WITH DG ALMOST TWO WEEKS AGO.

2. IN DISCUSSING OPTIONS IN PARAS 1 AND 2 OF REFTEL, DINH AND PERMDEL CONCLUDED THAT EFFORT TO PUBLICIZE CAO DAI ISSUE WITHIN UNESCO CONTEXT UNFORTUNATELY WOULD BE VIRTUALLY CERTAIN PREDESTINED FOR DAMAGING COUNTER-EXPLOITATION BY BLOC, CHINESE, AND OTHER ALLIES OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS; PARTICULARLY, AND DINH STRESSED THIS REPEATEDLY, IF U.S. VISIBLY IN FOREFRONT OF THIS EFFORT.

3. WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO REFTEL PARAGRAPH 2, SUGGESTION OF FOLLOW-UP BY US IN UNESCO 40 MEMBER EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NEXT MAY, DINH FELT STRONGLY, AND PERMDEL CONCURS, THAT SUCH AN EFFORT WOULD NOT SUCCEED. CONSIDERED JUDGMENT OF DINH AND PERMDEL THAT INITIATIVE OF US TO PLACE ITEM ON EXECUTIVE BOARD AGENDA, WITH OBJECTIVE OF ELICITING EXBD CON- DEMNATION VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST FORCES ACTIONS IN CAO DAI ATTACKS LIKELY TO HAVE ONLY SINGLE VOTE OF US IN SUPPORT. MOST APPROPRIATE AND EFFECTIVE WAY FOR PLACING BEFORE EXBD WOULD BE FOR THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN STATE ON THE BOARD TO PUT AN ISSUE CONCERNING THAT REGION BEFORE THE BOARD. PHILIP- PINES IS CURRENTLY EXBD MEMBER REPRESENTING SOUTH EAST ASIA AND DR. ESTEFANIA ALDABA-LIM IS THEIR BOARD MEMBER. IT IS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL IF MADAME LIM WOULD AGREE TO PUT SUCH A RESOLUTION BEFORE BOARD AND IT IS DINH'S BEST ESTIMATE THAT EVEN PHILIPPINES WOULD ABSTAIN. FYI BOARD MEMBERS, IN ADDITION TO U.S., INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

ASIA - INDIA, IRAN, JAPAN, NEPAL, PHILIPPINES, AUSTRA- LIA, AND PRC; AFRICA - DAHOMEY, GABON, GHANA, KENYA, MAURITANIA, TOGO, UPPER VOLTA, UGANDA, ZAIRE; EASTERN EUROPE - BULGARIA, GDR, YUGOSLAVIA, USSR; LATIN AMERICA - ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CUBA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, JAMAICA, URUGUAY; WESTERN EUROPE - AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, FRANCE, FRG, ITALY, NORWAY, SPAIN, UK; ARABS - EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, TUNISIA.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 01618 01 OF 02 201807Z

3. MOST IMPORTANTLY, DINH FELT AND PERMDEL STRONGLY CONCURS, THAT SOVIETS, PRC AND OTHERS WOULD READILY SEIZE THE "TWO-EDGED SWORD" PRESENTED THEM BY THIS ISSUE AND WIELD IT AGAINST THE GVN AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDARD TACTICS OF DENOUNCING SAIGON "PUPPET REGIME" AND "US MASTERS"; PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY NON-COMMUNIST ASIAN SUPPORT. SUBSTAN-

TIVE FACTS OF CAO DAI WOULD BE TREATED AS "IRRELEVANT"  
AND QUICKLY SUBMERGED IN A FLOOD OF ANTI-GVN AND ANTI-  
US RHETORIC FROM COMMUNIST EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS.  
UPSHOT WOULD LIKELY BE FRENCH MEDIA PUBLICITY OF  
"UNESCO REJECTION" OF "VALIDITY" OF GVN APPEAL. NET  
EFFECT WOULD BE ANOTHER PROPAGANDA SET-BACK FOR GVN

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PAGE 01 PARIS 01618 02 OF 02 201802Z

46

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

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P 201745Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6010

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01618

NESCO

AND FURTHER REINFORCEMENT OF US IMAGE AS SOLE SUPPORTER  
OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CAUSE.

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT US TOOK FIRM EXCEPTION  
TO ARAB RESOLUTION CONDEMNING JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS  
ISSUE IN JUST CONCLUDED UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND  
IN RECENT EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS ON GROUNDS THAT  
ISSUE INTRODUCED POLITICAL CONTROVERSY INTO UNESCO.  
PERMDEL'S CONSIDERED JUDGMENT, AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR  
DINH'S IS THAT ANTI-GVN MEMBER STATES WOULD LIKELY  
SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO LINK THESE TWO ISSUES, AND THEN  
PROCEED TO EXPLOIT AND DISTORT TO MAXIMUM POLITICAL  
DISADVANTAGE OF GVN, US AND PROBABLY ALSO ISRAEL.

5. AS A FOOTNOTE, DINH RECALLED THAT PAST UNESCO CONSIDERATION OF GKR APPEAL RE PROTECTION ANGKOR WAT TEMPLES WAS QUICKLY SEIZED UPON BY COMMUNIST AND OTHER ANTI-GKR MEMBER STATES TO DECIDEDLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON GKR CAUSE.

6. DINH REFERRED THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION TO FAR FROM CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 PARIS 01618 02 OF 02 201802Z

EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT GENERALLY ACCORDED GVN BY LOCAL FRENCH MEDIA ON VIETNAMESE ISSUES AND FORESAW PARTICULARLY DANGEROUS POTENTIAL ON THIS ISSUE.

7. ALTHOUGH UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND DG WOULD TRY TO BE HELPFUL AND KEEP DEBATE TO FACTUAL PROBLEM OF PRESERVING MONUMENTS, OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE ISSUE TO STIR UP TROUBLE WOULD NOT BE LOST BY PRO-PRC BOARD MEMBERS. ONCE MATTER BECAME POLITICAL SECRETARIAT WOULD HAVE LITTLE OPPORTUNITY EXERT INFLUENCE.

8. SUMMING UP, PERMDEL AND AMBASSADOR DINH BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO CHANCE IN PARISIAN ENVIRONMENT OF OBTAINING DESIRED FAVORABLE PUBLICITY OR ANY MEANINGFUL EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION ON THIS ISSUE IN THE UNESCO FORUM BECAUSE OF THE HARD REALITIES OF VOTING STRENGTH AND MEDIA ORIENTATION INDICATED ABOVE. DINH EXPRESSED VIEW THAT HIS MAJOR ROLE IS TO PRESERVE GVN STATUS IN UNESCO AS SOLE SPOKESMAN FOR THE SOUTH. HE SAID THAT HE ENJOYS EXCELLENT RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW AND BELIEVES DG WILL COOPERATE TO UTMOST TO PROTECT THIS BASIC GVN INTEREST. APPEAL ON CAO DAI ISSUE WOULD BE UNNECESSARY POTENTIAL SOURCE OF EMBARRASMENT TO M'BOW, IN DINH'S VIEW, FOR WHICH NO FRUITFUL END RESULTS CAN BE ENVISIONED - DINH EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US WOULD NOT, FOR ITS PART, INSIST ON PRESSING THIS ISSUE.

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## Message Attributes

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